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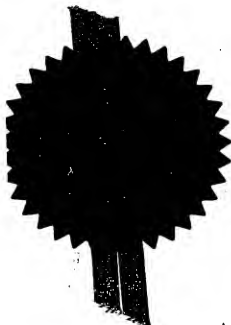
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Patents Form 1/77

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15AUG03 E830494-4 002820  
P01/7700 0.00-0319145.9

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(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road  
Newport  
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1. Your reference

P04012GB

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0319145.9

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

O.T.T. International Ltd  
Atlantic Street  
Broadheath,  
Altrincham  
Cheshire WA14 5FY

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

GB

8693418001

4. Title of the invention

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

LAURENCE SHAW & ASSOCIATES  
Metropolitan House, 1 Hagley Road  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham B16 8TG

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

13623001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number  
(if you know it)

Date of filing  
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing  
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if)

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
  - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
  - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
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**Continuation sheets of this form**

Description

5

Claim(s)

2

Abstract

Drawing(s)

3 + 3

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of Invention and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents  
(please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date 14 AUG. 2003

LAURENCE SHAW & ASSOCIATES

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

0121 454 4962

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## GARMENT FOR LADIES

The invention relates to a garment for ladies and in particular one designed to cover the bosom. Such a garment can be an item of swimwear, i.e. a bikini top or of lingerie, i.e. a brassiere.

It has long been realised that the straps associated with such a garment are inconvenient. In the case of tanning, the shoulder straps and the back straps leave untanned areas which are regarded as unattractive. In the case of lingerie, ladies often like to wear strapless and/or backless dresses where again brassiere straps are undesirable. Numerous ideas have been offered to address this problem: Some solutions rely on the use of transparent straps. Other solutions rely on the use of adhesives. In reality, the adhesive is presented as a tape the two sides of which are covered by an acrylic, polyester or like adhesive. They simply do not work well or well enough. They can also irritate the skin and cause dermatological problems.

It is one object of this invention to provide a garment fit for the purpose which has no visible support means and is reliable and comfortable in use.

According to the invention in one aspect there is provided strapless garment to cover the bosom area of a lady, the garment comprising a length of material having two ends, breast receiving cups being present between the ends, a layer of hypoallergenic adhesive being present at the ends on the surface of the material which, in use, will contact the body of the lady, the outer surface of the layer of the adhesive being covered by a releasable cover.

Preferably the adhesive is a gel which is permanently secured to the material. Preferably the adhesive is a hydrogel. The gel may be based on a polymer, e.g. acrylic, polyester, silicone or the like.

The garment may be of any suitable type. Preferably, in the case of a bikini, the material preferably comprises a laminate of two outer layers of heat cured material separated by a layer of foam material and part of the laminate has been moulded to form the breast receiving cups. Preferably the laminate comprises two outer layers of spandex or a polyester modified spandex known as LYCRA®.

Most preferably, the two outer layers are sealed at their edges to envelop the edges of the foam layer whereby the foam layer is not visible to the wearer. The resultant one piece sealed garment is eminently suitable as a bikini top.

In another embodiment the garment is fabricated from a material suitable for use as an item of lingerie; for example lace may be present.

In another aspect, the invention provides a package comprising a garment as hereinbefore defined, presented in a container having hanging means at one end by which the container may be suspended from a support, the container being in two separable parts, preferably hinged parts, which can be opened to gain access to the so-contained garment, the walls of the hinged parts being shaped to complement the shape of the garment.

In a preferred feature, the container is shaped to be stackable. Preferably the container has an area designated to hold the releasable cover when the garment is being worn.

Preferably the covers include a finger tab and a wall of the package includes a socket to receive the tab and thereby retain the covers at the designated area.

In a preferred feature at least one separable part includes a shoulder to restrict movement of the garment with the container.

In order that the invention may be well understood it will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings in which:

Figure 1 is an elevation from the inside of a bikini top of the invention of one cover, the left hand as seen, having been removed;

Figure 2 is an end view of one end of the bikini top drawn to an enlarged scale, and taken from arrow A, parts having been removed;

Figure 3 is a side elevation of a package comprising a container containing a top according to Figure 1 and 2 in closed condition; and

Figure 4 is an elevation of the package of Figure 3 in the opened condition.

The bikini top T comprises a laminate formed of an outer layer 1, an infill 2 and an inner layer 3 (which is to contact the skin of the wearer). The layers 1 and 3 can each be a multi-directional stretch fabric made of spandex or a modified spandex (e.g. a polyester modified spandex or a blend of spandex and polypropylene fibres) or another heat stretchable polymer. The infill 2 is a foam, such a polyurethane, polyurethane-ether, polyurethane-ester or neoprene foam. The layers 2,3 are flame laminated or otherwise secured together

and this will leave a peripheral thin or feather edge on the outer layer 1 and/or the inner layer 3; these are sealed at 4, e.g. ultrasonically welded, to conceal the otherwise exposed periphery of the foam layer 2. In this way the top T is a single piece seamless sealed all fabric having an attractive appearance. The top T has two end portions 5 and two breast cups 6 separated by a small bridge 6a.

A rectangular thick layer of a hypoallergenic hydrogel adhesive H is located on and directly secured to the inner surface of each end portion 5. The hydrogel may be formulated to bond to the surface of the fabric and be permanently secured thereto. The layer is covered by a releasable cover 7 which has a corner tab 8.

The top T is packaged in a moulded plastics or container C shown in Figures 3 and 4. This consists of two halves 20,21 joined together by living hinges 22 or the like. Each half 20,21 has a euro hole 23 at the top end thereof so that the package can be suspended from a hook, not shown, in a retail outlet or hand carried by the user, e.g. to a beach. The halves 20,21 are moulded to define compartments 24 of a shape to receive the breast cups 6. One half 20 has a shoulder 25 between the cups 6 to hold the top T in place. An area 26 is present to hold the covers 7 when the Top T is worn, and has a slit 27 to receive the tabs 8.

When a lady wants to use the top T she opens the carrier C and removes the top T. She removes the covers 7 and places them on the designated area 26. She then simply places the cups 6 on her bosom and presses the end portions 5, adhesive side facing the body, to her flesh. The top is elegant and there is no visible support means. She can wear the top T for tanning, on the beach or at another location. When she wishes to change back to usual dress, the reverse steps are taken. The carrier C can be held vertically on a hook in

storage or hand carried upright to the beach or pool. The adhesive is kept free of dust or other contamination by the cover 7 which being in the carrier C is always to hand.

The invention is not limited to the embodiment shown. The gel is preferably formulated for repeated reuse. The carrier C may have a zip or like seal.



## CLAIMS

1. A strapless garment to cover the bosom area of a lady, the garment comprising a length of material having two ends, breast receiving cups being present between the ends, a layer of hypoallergenic adhesive being present at the ends on the surface of the material which, in use, will contact the body of the layer, the outer surface of the layer of the adhesive being covered by a releasable cover.
2. A garment according to Claim 1; wherein the adhesive is a gel which is permanently secured to the surface of the material.
3. A garment according to Claim 2, wherein the adhesive is a hydrogel.
4. A garment according to any preceding Claim, wherein the adhesive is secured directly to the surface of the material.
5. A garment according to any preceding Claim, wherein the material comprises a laminate of two outer layers of heat cured material separated by a layer of foam material.
6. A garment according to Claim 5, wherein the laminate comprises two outer layers of spandex.
7. A garment according to Claim 6, wherein the outer layers comprise polyester modified spandex.

8. A garment according to any of Claims 5 to 7, wherein the outer layers are sealed at their edges to envelope the edges of the foam layer whereby the foam layer is not visible to the wearer.
9. A garment according to any preceding Claim, in the form of a bikini top.
10. A garment according to any of Claims 1 to 8, in the form of an item of lingerie.
11. A package comprising a garment according to any preceding Claim, presented in a container having hanging means at one end by which the container may be suspended from a support, the container being in two separable parts which can be opened to gain access to the contained garment, the walls of the parts being shaped to complement the shape of the garment.
12. A package according to Claim 11, which is stackable.
13. A package according to Claim 11 or 12, having an area designated to hold the releasable covers when the garment is in use.
14. A package according to Claim 13, wherein the covers include a finger tab and a wall of the package includes a socket to receive the tab and thereby retain the covers at the designated area.
15. A package according to any of claims 11 to 14, wherein at least one container part includes a shoulder to restrict movement of the garment with the container.

Fig 1

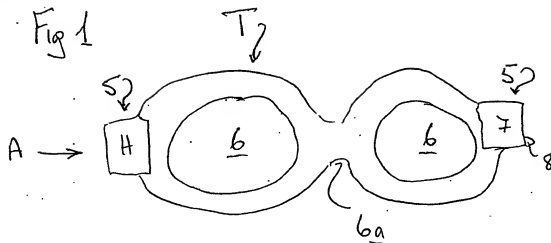
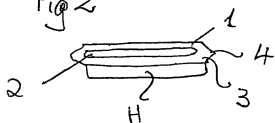
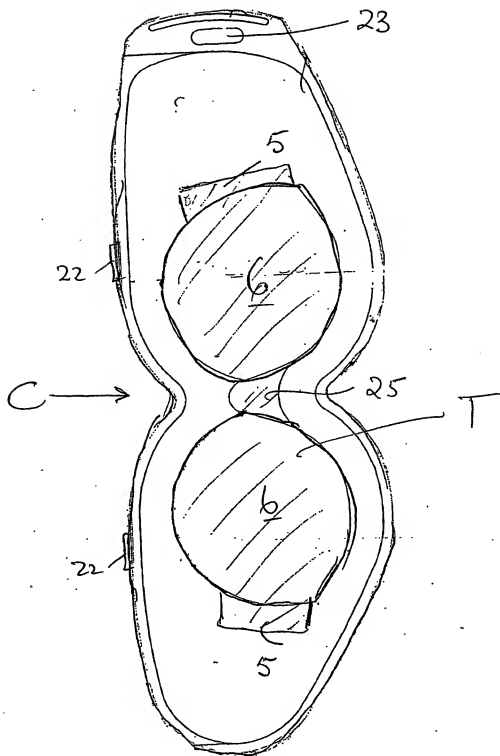


Fig 2



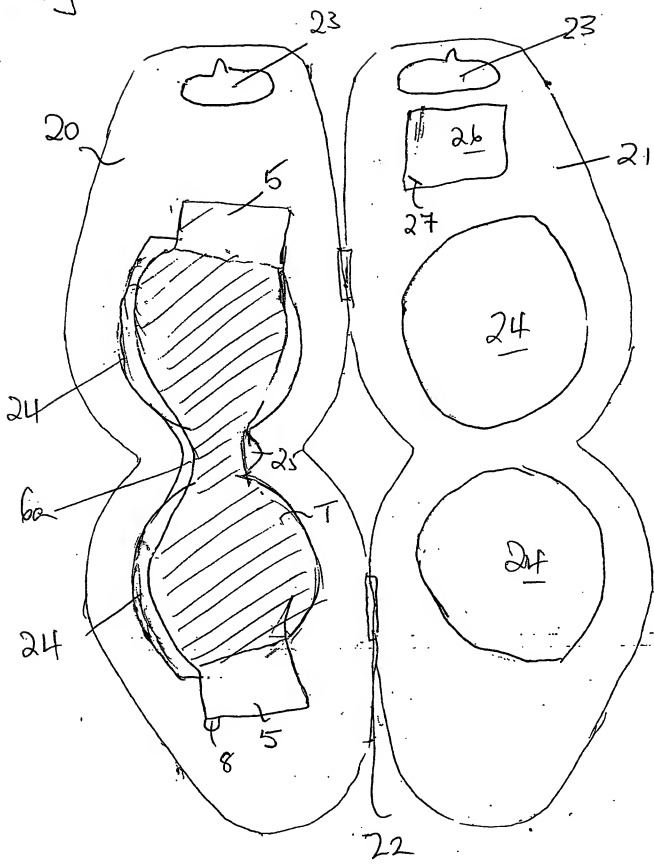
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Fig 3



(313)

Fig 4



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